

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 H-02 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSY-06 PA-02
USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 STR-04 SS-15 NSC-05 /097 W
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R 310930Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5818
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0736

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EGAN, EIND, BEXP, SF, US
SUBJECT: REPORTED PRO-SA COMPANY IN US

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY AIDA PARKER APPEARS IN THE
MARCH 30 EDITION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY, THE
CITIZEN.

BEGIN TEXT.

"AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND INVESTORS, BLACK AND WHITE, ARE
BEING OFFERED A R1,305 (ONE RAND EQUALS APPROX 1.15 DOLLARS)
BARGAIN PACKAGE TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA TO
LET THEM SEE POLITICAL AND LABOUR REALITIES FOR THEMSELVES.

"THIS OFFER -- BY ACSA (AMERICANS CONCERNED ABOUT SOUTH
AFRICA), NEWEST AND FASTEST-GROWING PRO-SOUTH AFRICAN
GROUP IN THE US -- WENT ON THE MARKET IN AMERICA YESTERDAY.

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"SPEAKING TO ME BY PHONE FROM DENVER, COLORADO, ACSA'S
CO-DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT SPECIALIST MR DON MC ALVANY, SAID
THE TOUR WAS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE TO COUNTER THE NEW HARD-
LINE ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN STANCE BEING ADOPTED BY THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION.

"IN THE FIRST TOUR, IT WAS HOPED TO SEND AT LEAST

100 BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN TO THE REPUBLIC IN AUGUST. AFTER THAT IT WAS HOPED THAT SUCH FACT FINDING MISSIONS WOULD BECOME A REGULAR FEATURE THREE OR FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

"IN ADDITION ACSA IS PLANNING TO SEND -- THIS TIME AT ITS OWN EXPENSE -- 10 US CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS TO THE REPUBLIC THIS YEAR, TO GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY OF JUDGING THE SOUTH AFRICAN REALITIES FOR THEMSELVES.

"SA AIRWAYS, HE SAID, WOULD BE ASKED TO PROVIDE SPECIAL CHARTER RATES FOR THE GROUPS. HE EMPHASIZED HOWEVER THAT ACSA, CURRENTLY WITH 1,000 MEMBERS AND AIMING TO INCREASE THAT TENFOLD BY THE END OF THE YEAR, WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY FINANCIAL HELP FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OR RELATED AGENCIES.

"ACSA HAD BEEN FORMED BY PRIVATE US CITIZENS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM, WAS SUSTAINED BY PRIVATE FUNDING AND AIMED TO KEEP IT THAT WAY, HE SAID.

"MR MC ALVANY AND HIS PARTNER IN THIS VENTURE, FINANCIAL PUBLISHER MR PATRICK WOOD, HAVE BOTH VISITED SOUTH AFRICA.

"OUR ORGANISATION IS A NON PROFIT-MAKING FOUNDATION FORMED TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION ON SOUTH AFRICA, BECAUSE WE FELT THIS WAS LACKING IN THE US PRESS.

"WE WANT TO GET OBJECTIVE PEOPLE -- NOT FRIENDS OF SOUTH AFRICA -- TO GO THERE AND TO GET SOME SORT OF DEBATE GOING
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TO COUNTER THE AMOUNT OF ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN BIAS HERE. WE ARE FRIENDS TRYING TO HELP IN WHAT IS PROBABLY A FALTERING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND SOUTH AFRICA.

"ACSA, WHICH HAS MEMBERS IN ALL 50 STATES, STRESSED THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS FRIENDSHIP WITH THE US.

"MR MC ALVANY SAID ACSA WAS IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. IT HAD ORGANISED A NUMBER OF SPEAKING PLATFORMS AND PRESS INTERVIEWS IN THE SOUTHERN US FOR THE FORMER AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN MINISTER DESIGNATE, MR PIK BOTHA. JOHNSON

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